

VISTA State Progress Report

Legal Applicant: Chisholm Trail RSVP

Address: 4208 N Interstate 35 D-5

City/State/Zip: Denton TX 76207-3441

Fax: (940) 387-0862

Project Name: AmeriCorps VISTA North Texas

Project Director: Christina Penland

Telephone: Ex. 6

Email: VISTA@rsvpserves.org

Grant Number: 13VSWTX015

Period Covered by this Report:

From: 11/30/2014 to 11/28/2015

Application ID: 15VS177978

Member Development

	Member Development Information	AmeriCorps VISTA Members
1	On-Site Orientation	124
2	Community Outreach	31
3	Community Volunteer Generation/Recruitment	75
4	Effective Volunteer Management	30
5	Resource Mapping	99
6	Resource Development/Fundraising	165
7	Grant Writing	73
8	Organizational Development	145
9	Performance Measures	5
10	Tracking Systems	13
11	Information Technology	71
12	Developing On-Site Orientations and Training Plans	25
13	Other (Please Specify)	245

Sponsor Note Webinars and training related to VISTA benefits and service, personal and professional development, and trainings specific to agency missions

Demographics

	Demographic Information	Value
1	# of community volunteers recruited during the reporting period	449.00
5	# of community volunteers managed during the reporting period	395.00
2	# of Service Hours performed by Community Volunteers who were recruited	1,608.00
6	# of Service Hours performed by Community Volunteers who were managed	1,974.00
3	Dollar value of cash resources leveraged during the reporting period	432,994.00
4	Dollar value of in-kind resources leveraged during the reporting period	122,089.00

Narratives

Challenges

beyond scope of request

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beyond scope of request

Recruitment and Support

beyond scope of request

The VISTA Leader has been instrumental in growing the VISTA North Texas' online presence through the project's website, www.VISTANorthTexas.com. She has also grown the project's Facebook and Twitter pages with frequent and relevant content regarding AmeriCorps VISTA, local, state and national events and poverty related stories.

The VISTA Project Director and VISTA Leader are available to answer requests for assistance with sub-site projects or to help the VISTA member work through conflict. Monthly service projects or trainings are held in order to facilitate team building. The VISTA members are encouraged to use each other as resources to learn new skills or best practices. The VISTA Leader has developed a shared drive on Google for the VISTA members to access. Information on the shared drive includes resources for volunteer recruitment, grant writing and resource development, and information regarding VISTA benefits.

In order to ensure a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming VISTA members, the VISTA Leader ensures the outgoing VISTA is keeping good records and documents pertinent information to pass to the incoming VISTA. Sub-site supervisors are required to provide a thorough on-site orientation once the incoming VISTA begins service to make the transition into service as smooth as possible.

Training/Technical Assistance Needs

No training or technical assistance is needed at this time. When questions arise, the Project Director and the VISTA Leader will first go to the VISTA Campus for answers. For more technical questions or concerns, the Program Officer is contacted.

Partnership/Collaboration Development

Organizations that have partnered with the AmeriCorps VISTA North Texas Project by hosting a VISTA member the past year include beyond scope of request

2016, the VISTA North Texas Project will welcome two new VISTA sites: Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center, beyond scope of request . In February 2016, the VISTA North Texas Project will welcome two new VISTA sites: beyond scope of request

On October 22, 2015, the VISTA North Texas project hosted a Community Solutions Hunger Summit to commemorate the VISTA 50th Anniversary. Christian Community Action (CCA) donated the space for the summit as well as tables, chairs, staging and audio visual equipment. The keynote speaker for the event was Atif Bostic, Executive Director of UpLift Solutions. He spoke about the innovation and success they have had eliminating food deserts and empowering those with food insecurity in their community. The panel discussion featured community leaders who shared insights into the food insecurity issues among the diverse populations they serve. Panelist for the event included Atif Bostic, ED UpLift Solutions, Dr. Maureen McGuiness, UNT Dean of Students, Kristen Keeth, Senior Services Manager of SPAN, Inc./Meals on Wheels of Denton County, Michelle DeGrate, Vice President of Programs Christian Community Action, Danielle Betters, Senior Intake Case Manager Cornerstone Assistance Network, Jamey Kirby, Grants Coordinator City of Lewisville, Danielle Shaw, Human Services Coordinator City of Denton. Denton County Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell spoke about food insecurity issues facing Denton County. The VISTA North Texas project also partnered with the Cornerstone Assistance Network VISTA project who donated refreshments for the event.

Resource Development

beyond scope of request

Woman to Woman-VISTA member Ex. 6 recruited 67 new volunteers who served 190 hours at the agency's resale store. Twice

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As Nice and fundraising events. She also assisted her agency in raising \$117,841 through fundraising events, such as the annual banquet and North Texas Giving Day. Proceeds raised will assist with funding of education programs and free medical services to uninsured and economically disadvantaged women and families in Denton, TX.

beyond scope of request

beyond scope of request

Sustainability

As an intermediary project, our goal is to support the AmeriCorps VISTA members and their agencies as they develop and build projects that will allow for the transition away from AmeriCorps VISTA resources. All of the VISTA members are brought together monthly in order to solve problems and give the support needed through education, training and team building activities. Contact is made with site supervisors on a monthly basis by the Project Director to ensure the VISTA member and the Site Supervisor have the tools necessary to have a successful project. In order to grow and sustain the AmeriCorps VISTA North Texas Project, we will actively engage and educate non-profit and government agencies in Denton, Collin, Wise, Grayson and Cooke Counties about the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

Each VISTA is required to ensure the information for all of the projects worked on are organized in computer and/or hard copy files and that contact information for all of the important people/businesses worked with are accessible to the agency staff and the next VISTA member who will be serving. Additionally, VISTA members will keep notes from workshops, trainings, and webinars participated in and is saving them in as a resource for the next VISTA.

Multi-Site Program Management and Performance

The Project Director and VISTA Leader meet monthly with the VISTA members to ensure all projects are moving forward and to give the VISTA members the support needed to complete their VADs. The meetings have been taking place at the Chisholm Trail RSVP, Inc. office, thus requiring the VISTA members to leave their projects to attend the meetings. VISTA members participate in service projects to facilitate team building and to learn how to support each other to accomplish goals beyond scope of request

The VISTA Leader has also implemented "VISTA Meet-Ups", a social activities to get to know each other in a non-work environment.

The VISTA members complete and submit timesheets and monthly reports to the VISTA Leader. The VISTA Leader reads the reports to check for progress at each site as well as to assess any needs the VISTA member may have. The VISTA Leader compiles the reports and posts them on the shared drive for the Project Director to review for the Progress Reports. Any issues or clarification needed are addressed each month so that support is given quickly.

The project director is in contact every two weeks via email with the sub-site supervisors to ensure the VISTA member is in service and that there are no issues or concerns with the VISTA member.

The Project Director makes site visits to each agency hosting an AmeriCorps VISTA member. Every VISTA member and VISTA supervisor is aware that they may contact the Project Director via phone at the office Monday-Friday 9 am to 4 pm, by cell phone on the weekends and after office hours or through email. The VISTA Leader is also available to offer support and resources on an as needed basis.

Other Accomplishments

beyond scope of request

beyond scope of request

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beyond scope of request

VISTA Leader Coordinates September 11th Service Day

The AmeriCorps VISTA North Texas Project like any other national service program is committed to leadership through service. Furthermore, AmeriCorps VISTAs take special time to honor and respect fellow service leaders in our communities. 9/11 is one such time that VISTAs take special care to honor those who had fallen 14 years ago and recognize those who are currently serving as first responders in our communities.

Stories

beyond scope of request

VISTA Member Helps Agency Raise Big Money

Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to make wise life choices financially, relationally, and sexually through the provision of resources and education. On Thursday, November 5, 2015, 400 guests from the Denton community gathered for the agency's annual fundraising banquet. VISTA member, Ex. 6 managed volunteers to assemble centerpieces and execute the registration process, design of the programs and slideshow, and setting up and tearing down the event. Overall 20 volunteers contributed 200 hours of service to benefit the agency and \$114,841 was raised. Proceeds raised at the banquet will assist with funding of education programs and free medical services to uninsured and economically disadvantaged women and families in Denton, TX.

beyond scope of request

Attachments and Links

Links:

PediPlace-Kendra Reams

North Texas Giving Day <https://youtu.be/GTGhUcj528I>,

PM 9 - beyond scope of request

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Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center

PM 19 - Capacity Building & Leverage - Scale/Reach - Full Time - 1

Measure Type	Measure	Target	Actual	Progress
Output	(PRIORITY) G3-3.1: Number of community volunteers recruited by organizations or participants	35	67	191.43 %
Outcome	(PRIORITY) G3-3.3: Number of organizations implementing effective volunteer management practices	1	1	100.00 %
# of Full time VISTAS		4	1	25.00 %

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PM 19 - Capacity Building & Leverage - Scale/Reach - Full Time - 1

Focus Area -	Measure Type	Measure	Target	Actual	Progress
Healthy Futures - Access to Care	Anti-Poverty Output	H1: Number of uninsured, econ disadv individuals utilizing health care services/programs	0	0	0.00 %
Healthy Futures - Access to Care	Anti-Poverty Outcome	Number of clients receiving health care services.	0	0	0.00 %
Healthy Futures - Access to Care	# of Full time VISTAS		4	1	25.00 %

Sponsor Note

Since the inception of the Volunteer Recruitment and Development VISTA project in August 2015, the VISTA member has recruited 67 new volunteers who have served 190 hours at Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center. VISTA member participated in several community events to promote the agency and recruit volunteers including the University of North Texas Green Fling, North Central Texas College Flower Mound Volunteer Fair and the Texas Woman's University Volunteer fair. At the events, she engages attendees, hands out organizational information, recruits volunteers and engages with other non-profit agencies. These events offer the VISTA the opportunity to establish new relationships for the agency. She also is promoting volunteer opportunities through social media platforms.

The VISTA is tasked with expanding and enhancing the current volunteer program through the evaluation and revising of existing policies and procedures. Ex. 6 interviewed volunteers and staff, reviewed past policies and procedures and designed a volunteer checklist that will be implemented at Twice as Nice Resale Store, the agency's fundraising arm. The checklist will help communicate to any volunteer, new and experienced, tasks needed to be completed without drawing the staff away from the tasks they are attending to. This is crucial to the non-profit because the resale store averages approximately 30 volunteers a week with a 3 person staff.

The VISTA member had an integral role in the Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center Annual Fundraising Banquet. She managed 20 volunteers to assemble centerpieces, execute the registration process, design the programs and slideshow, and with the set up and tear down of the event. The volunteers contributed 200 hours of service and \$114,841 was raised by the banquet. The VISTA used this venue to educate and inform 400 community members about the role that Woman To Woman plays and the impact the organization continues to have in Denton, Texas.

beyond scope of request

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